

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/034,438 Confirmation No.: 1506  
Applicant : John Maxfield  
Entitled : System and Method for Controlling Free Space Distribution by Key  
Range within a Database  
Filed : 27-DEC-2001  
TC/A.U. : 2163  
Examiner : Linh Black  
  
Docket No. : 149-0055US  
Customer No. : 29855

**MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(E)**

Assignee appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 18-42 in this application. Assignee does not disagree with the Examiner's characterization of what the prior art discloses, and Assignee agrees that the prior art does not disclose or suggest the inventions claimed. However, Assignee wishes to point out that the Examiner has not necessarily correctly characterized the scope of all of the allowed claims. Therefore, the Examiner's statements should not be interpreted as indicative of the scope of the claims. Instead, each claim must be interpreted pursuant to its specific language.

Respectfully submitted,

/Sean McDermott/  
Reg. No. 49,000

**Customer No. 29855**

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